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Photograph by Dr. Spencer L. Higgins

A "JAM SESSION" SWINGS QUITE LOW IN GUAM

"Hot music" simmers down to a plaintive languor in comparison with the tropical island's heat, and the reclining musician lulls himself almost to sleep. The *belimbau-tuyan* is a two-bow instrument. One is the instrument itself, built like a bow for arrow-shooting, with a single string; the other is the musical bow, used to scrape vibrations from the string. The former is anchored to a half coconut resting on the player's stomach. Favorite melody in Guam is the folk song, *chamorrita*, for which there are countless choruses (Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Border Struggle Marks Carpatho-Ukraine as Another Trouble Spot

DOWN one degree is Europe's fever chart, according to recent dispatches crackling over the wires with news of truce in the fighting between Hungarian, Czech and Ruthenian troops at the new Hungarian border town of Munkacs (Mukačevo in Czech).

Inside the borders of Czecho-Slovakia from 1920 until 1938, Mukačevo is now located on the frontier between the northeast shoulder of Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia's easternmost province of Ruthenia, more recently called "Carpatho-Ukraine."

North, east, and west of this Hungarian town, newly cut from its former district by a looping boundary line, lies territory which is still Ruthenian. The new boundary was the result of a Hungarian compromise, following last year's demands by Hungary and Poland, for complete partition of the province.

Crossroad of International Cross-Purposes

Later Ukrainian nationalist leaders proposed that Ruthenia, as Carpatho-Ukraine, be made a part of a self-governing "Greater Ukraine" state. Still later came the border conflict, to mark this wild and once isolated district as another European crossroad of international cross-purposes.

Ruthenia, for nearly two decades following the World War, was Czecho-Slovakia's most remote and primitive district. A thousand years before being linked with Czecho-Slovakia, it was an obscure, dark corner of Hungary.

In the autumn of 1938, after the transfer of Sudetenland to Germany, surrender of additional southern Czech territory to Hungary took from Ruthenia about one-third of her area and more than a third of her population. The remaining state is about half the size of New Jersey, with a population of less than half a million people, of mixed nationalities.

Chief population group among the usual Central-European medley of races is that of the Ruthenes, blood relatives of the Ukrainians of Soviet Russia and of Polish East Galicia across the northern border. Even these Ruthenes, however, isolated behind the mountain barriers of the Carpathians, have developed their own culture.

Goods Sold in Many Tongues

At Uzhorod, former capital of the province now transferred to Hungarian rule, merchants have long sold goods in many languages, catering to Little Russians, Jews, Poles, Magyars, Romanians, Czechs, Slovaks—and Romany gypsies.

About ten years ago, a unique institution, a gypsy school and camp, was set up by the Czecho-Slovak government in an attempt to give domestic roots to these once difficult nomads.

Under Austro-Hungarian rule, some 70 per cent of Ruthenia's people could neither read nor write. Today, as a result of Czecho-Slovakia's "colonization" program, it is estimated that 150,000 pupils are learning their lessons in Hungarian, in Little Russian, in Hebrew, and in other tongues.

New roads and medical centers have been built. The chief cities and villages have been improved and modernized, although their facilities are still far short of those of urban communities of the west.

Life is hard and primitive for most citizens of this lonely, mountain-locked region. Soil is thin, except in certain western and southern fields that merge into

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© *Lieutenant G. I. B. Balfour, R. N.*

THE DENTIST ALWAYS "PLAYS" TO A CAPACITY HOUSE WHEN HE VISITS TRISTAN DA CUNHA

School-age children of this remote South Atlantic island go to the dentist perhaps once a year, but no oftener, for they must save their toothaches until a dentist comes to see them from a rare passing ship. In sunbonnets, kerchiefs, caps, and their best party clothes, they wait their turn for dental attention. Toothaches are unusual, however, among this naturally healthy group of islanders; 131 out of 156 were found to have no signs at all of tooth decay (Bulletin No. 4).

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Defense at Guam, Sunset Extremity of the United States

THE recent report of the Naval Board on possible sites for air and submarine defenses of the United States recommended new bases at forty-one locations, one of them over 5,000 miles from the homeland. This distant outpost for Uncle Sam's fleet is the Pacific Island of Guam, 5,043 miles west of San Francisco.

Guam is almost due south of the main islands of the Japanese Empire, and is surrounded by islands mandated to Japanese authority. Guam has been United States territory since 1898, when Spaniards surrendered it without a struggle.

Only a twentieth of the island's 21,500 inhabitants are of American stock. The rest, however, are rapidly becoming Americanized. They speak English, jingle nickels and dimes in their pockets, celebrate the Fourth of July, and are ruled by a Governor appointed by the President of the United States.

Baseball and Cockfights

Agaña, the capital and largest town, with a population of more than 10,000, has all the conveniences of an American town of the same size. It has a water supply, sewer system, ice and electric plants, hospitals, shops, and churches. It also contains a Government House and a Marine Barracks. Most of the limestone houses are roofed with American iron, and equipped with American furniture.

In modern concrete schools, pupils are taught, by American teachers, agriculture, handicrafts, and English. In leisure hours they still rush to cockfights, but with increasing eagerness also to baseball and volleyball games.

The natives are short and strong. Their complexions range from near-white to brown. Children and young women wear American clothes, but the latter revert to native costumes after marriage. Sewing machines are the women's prized possessions, while the men's ambition is to "trade in" their two-wheeled ox-carts for motor cycles and automobiles. Since American occupation, good roads have been pushed from Agaña into the interior of the island.

Guam has an area of about 225 square miles, with 30 miles as its greatest length. Hot springs indicate its volcanic origin. Valleys are wooded, or are tangled jungles of vines and plants that provide material for cord, fish nets, paper, hats, thatch, and mats.

Bird-Eating Lizard and Lizard-Eating Bird

In groves along the beaches grow graceful coconut palms. Their waving fronds are used to thatch huts. Floors are polished with grated coconut, and coconut "milk" is widely drunk, as well as a fermented drink made from palm sap. Coconut meat is food both to natives and to edible crabs, and in times of food shortage it is fed to cats and dogs. Coconut oil is used for anointing, cooking, and lighting.

Copra (dried coconut meat) and coconut oil are Guam's chief exports. The island ships about 2,000 tons of copra (illustration, next page) annually.

Except when hurricanes ruin crops, Guam grows abundant foodstuffs for its inhabitants. Maize, rice, vegetables, and fruits flourish. Coffee and cacao also are produced. Since most gardens are not enclosed, cattle, horses, water buffaloes, and pigs are kept either tethered or penned. Poultry farming is difficult because of many cats that have gone wild; other menaces are preying ants and kingfishers that peck out the eyes of young chicks.

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the Hungarian plains. In the midst of natural wealth in valuable timber that covers 40 per cent of Ruthenia, men and women must work hard merely to get along. With their babies slung nearby in crude wooden cradles, mothers toil in the cornfields.

Where money is scarce and lumber plentiful, household ware, native art work, houses, and churches are made of wood. Wooden pegs take the place of nails in buildings.

In Ruthenia's hidden valleys, linger superstitions and old habits, along with wide-sleeved peasant dresses richly embroidered, and little houses brightly painted in blues, greens, and reds behind wooden stockades designed to keep out wolves and bears in winter.

With its wild game—deer, lynx, bears, stags, wildcats, and boars—Ruthenia is a hunter's heaven.

Mineral deposits include naphtha, coal, salt (illustration, below), iron, and marble—together with a handsome local form of quartz, or "Ruthenian diamonds," found along river banks.

Note: For additional references, photographs, and maps about the Carpatho-Ukraine and its neighbors, see "An American Girl Cycles Across Romania" (map), *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1938; "Czechoslovaks, Yankees of Europe," August, 1938; "Bright Bits in Poland's Mountainous South" (color insert), March, 1935; "Poland of the Present," March, 1933; "Hospitality of the Czechs," June, 1927; "Struggling Poland," August, 1926; and "The Ukraine, Past and Present," August, 1918.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Czechoslovakia: Ancient Bohemia Plus," week of December 6, 1937.

Bulletin No. 1, January 30, 1939.

Photograph from John Patric

RUTHENIA'S BIGGEST SALT CELLAR IS FAR UNDERGROUND

"Salt of the earth" has a double meaning in Slatinske Doly, on the southern frontier between Carpatho-Ukraine (Ruthenia) and Romania. Here for two centuries and a half men have been mining glittering crystalline salt from a great pocket hidden in the earth. Now the cave is so huge that freight cars and railroad tracks in it look like toys. A mere man carrying a blazing torch (left center) seems dwarfed. Air drills used to carve the salt from its rocklike setting mark the walls in patterns like giant finger prints (upper left corner).

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Ground Hog Leads Procession of Weather's False Prophets

MORE certainly than every dog has his day, the woodchuck, or ground hog, comes into his own on Ground-Hog Day. Firmly entrenched in the calendar among saints and heroes, movable feasts and bank holidays, this American marmot receives on February 2 an annual invitation to repeat his supposed feat of predicting the weather for the ensuing six weeks.

By dint of regular appearances in the championship matches of amateur weather prophets, and not at all by his successes, the ground hog has now acquired semi-professional standing.

Lizards, Badgers, and Birds Give Storm Warnings

It probably was the efforts of early settlers to pronounce the Cree Indian word, *wejack*, that gave him his name. French pioneers encountering him in the vast silent forests of Canada dubbed him *Le Siffleur*. "Whistler" he is called also in the western United States and parts of Alaska.

By whatever name, the ground hog is a truly American nomination to the Animal Supreme Court of the Weather. To this mythical group of future-seers and sayers Burma has elected the gecko, long-tailed little lizard called Tuk-to, whose loud "tuk" is believed to foretell rain. Popular live weather vane in Greece is the cat; if he faces north during the process of taking a shampoo, it is believed that destructive north winds will soon sweep by.

In Germany the badger rouses from a long winter's sleep to predict the end or the continuance of bad weather. In the southwest of Ireland the natural weather prophet is a robin; if he ventures near the house, he warns of rain, but if he comes indoors, he shows that frost and snow are on the way. In the Isle of Man, though the day may be ever so dry, if rooks fly over to the mountains, Manxmen prepare for rain.

In Labrador, to kill a crow and drop its fat into the sea is supposed to induce a frost. A Scottish saying scolds the local weather prophet with: "Sea gull, sea gull, sitting on the sand, it's never good weather while you're on land." Petrels that follow screaming in the wake of ships have earned a name among sailors as the omen of bad weather: Stormy Petrels.

Fox Fur and Onion Skin Augur Hard Winter

To explain the popularity of such weather signs, scientists turn from Mother Nature to human nature. These prophecies are less valid as meteorology—the science of the weather—than as psychology—the science of man's mental processes. Straining to read the future, man enlists the delicate sense organs of the animal kingdom, which can obviously hear, see, scent, and feel clues beyond his limited perception. Most animal omens are not fulfilled, but hopeful and forgetful humanity continues to hand down such misleading weather lore from generation to generation.

Sir Isaac Newton, pondering on his famous law of gravitation, told how a countryman predicted a storm from the way a cow twirled her tail. With Inferno and Paradise both in his background, the learned poet Dante described dolphins as a warning to sailors of a storm's approach.

A hard winter is popularly foreshadowed by thick skin on a catfish, abundantly blooming dogwood, the opossum moving from his hollow tree into an underground storm cellar, tough skin on the onion, anxious beavers cutting their winter wood a month early, pigs carrying straw to their sties, thick fur on foxes, sharks going out to sea, dead leaves clinging to the tree, thick husks on corn, many worms stored in the mole's tunnels, or squirrels scurrying to stock up their caches of nuts. On the other hand, the squirrel predicts "when he eats them on the tree, weather as warm as warm can be."

"Fowls Roll in Sand, Rain at Hand"

Rain, no doubt because of the uncomfortable humidity frequently preceding it, is a favorite prophecy for the animals' quack weather bureau. "If fowls roll in the sand, rain is at hand." The same warning is taken from sheep turning their backs to the wind, bees returning early to the hive, horses sweating in the stable, cows lying with head upon the ground, peacocks screaming during the night, air bubbles above a clam-bed, snails dragging their pearly paths across the road, frogs croaking, cats sneezing, dogs eating grass.

Arch-prophet of them all, however, is still the ground hog, or woodchuck, and the only one to have his name inscribed on the calendar. His day was allotted to him by a combination of two superstitions. In preparing for their winter seasons of cold storage, hibernating animals,

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Kingfishers here are lizard-eating birds, but the island also has big bird-eating lizards, four feet long.

See "Guam, Perch of the China Clippers," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1938; "Flying the Pacific," December, 1936; and "The Greatest Voyage in the Annals of the Sea" (Magellan), December, 1932.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Guam Is Having Cat Trouble!", week of March 11, 1935.

Bulletin No. 2, January 30, 1939.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS

Only two more issues of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS will be published before the completion of Volume XVII's thirty issues, the last of which contains the annual index. Readers of the BULLETINS who usually renew their subscriptions at the end of each Volume can avoid a break in their supply by sending their 25 cents now. Whenever entered, subscriptions run for a complete year, or thirty issues.

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Photograph from Margaret M. Higgins

SUN-CURES FOR COCONUTS BRING POTENCY TO GUAM'S POCKETBOOK

Chief source of cash for the natives is copra, the white meat of the coconut, scooped from the shell by deft native hands and spread to dry in the sun. Bamboo trays of meaty cups are placed on the ground or on racks, as in the rear of the shed. A war scare booms the market for copra. From its fatty oil can be made glycerin for explosives. A peacetime use is in soap.

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New Role for Tristan da Cunha, Erstwhile "Lonely Isles"

SHIFTING ship routes and radio instruments are bringing Tristan da Cunha into the world's net of communications. This lonely island, equally remote from South America and South Africa, has for years been one of the world's acknowledged "nowheres"—too far from anywhere to be reached with ease.

British naval experts, in 1938, undertook to give the islands a radio station, and bring them within one inch-on-the-radio-dial of the rest of the British Empire.

Meanwhile, the very loneliness of Tristan da Cunha has proved so alluring that it is becoming a tourist objective. The remote island group, rarely a port of call for even small and leisurely tramp ships, has appeared on the itinerary of one of the largest luxury liners afloat, as a featured stop on a round-the-world cruise.

Really a Group of Five Islands

Heretofore, Tristan da Cunha's only contacts with the outside world have been the infrequent visits of a supply steamer. News of the end of the World War did not reach its inhabitants until several years after the Armistice.

The Tristan da Cunha group includes Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands and two tiny islets, all of volcanic origin. Largest island is Tristan da Cunha, with an area of about 16 square miles (less than Bermuda). Sheer cliffs edge most of its rocky shoreline and much of the interior is steep, sparsely wooded slopes of an extinct volcano which rises to nearly 8,000 feet. From a crater lake pour waterfalls which could be utilized to provide electric power.

The only settlement is called Edinburgh. Its low grass-thatched huts resemble those of the Scotch Highlands (illustration, next page), and some of the residents are descendants of the first permanent settler, William Glass. He was a Scotch corporal in a garrison stationed there in 1815. When the soldiers were removed in 1817, Glass asked permission to remain.

Because American whalers once frequently landed on Tristan da Cunha, the islanders celebrate the Fourth of July as well as all the British holidays. Italian and Dutch sailors, shipwrecked on Tristan da Cunha, also settled there; Australians, South Africans, and even Negroes have been added to the population.

An Island Melting Pot

A century of inbreeding among the forty families has, strangely enough, resulted in strong long-lived people, as pious as they are hard-working. They are loyal to the British Crown. To the King and Queen at their Coronation, they sent humble gifts of a hand-knitted sweater and socks and a handwoven mat decorated with penguin feathers.

Dances and weekly phonograph concerts are welcome breaks in a routine of hard existence on the island. Flocks of sheep provide wool for simple knitted clothes, and the surrounding seas supply ample fish. The ground has to be coaxed to raise even the staple, potatoes. Rats destroy grain, and wind and rain damage many other crops. Most commodities including flour, tea, medicines, paint, and cooking utensils are imported from Great Britain and are donations by the government.

When the twenty or thirty tons of supplies arrive, they are dumped on the shore and divided equally among the island's families. There are no banks, for there is no money. Neither are there written laws. Taxes are paid in potatoes.

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such as the European hedgehog, were supposed to build their burrows opening on the sheltered side, away from the wind. "Poor Robin's Almanack" in 1733 wondered if "by some secret art the hedgehogs know, so long before, which way the winds will blow."

Ground-Hog Day A Centuries-Old Focus of Weather-Wondering

The second superstition attached to Candlemas day, February 2. Throughout much of Europe it is a key day for weather prophecies: "If Candlemas Day be stormy and black, it carries the winter away on its back." A Scottish saying predicts: "If Candlemas Day be fair and clear, there'll be twa winters in the year." In Germany, where "the shepherd would sooner see the wolf enter his fold on Candlemas Day than the sun," hibernating animals such as the hedgehog, badger, and bear, were invited to wake up and prophesy on that strategic day.

Ground-Hog Day probably gained its hold on the United States after being brought over from Germany by Pennsylvania "Dutch." The hibernating animal which they found most accommodating and plentiful on their weather-prognosticating day in the New World was the ground hog.

Note: See also "Wild Animals of North America," published in one volume by the National Geographic Society. Other illustrated books, wall maps, and pictures—both in color and black and white—are listed in a catalogue of the publications of The Society, which will be sent upon request.

Bulletin No. 3, January 30, 1939.

Photograph by Willard R. Culver

"KING FOR A DAY" IN THE WEATHER REALM IS THE LOWLY GROUND HOG'S EXALTED RANK

At Quarryville, Pennsylvania, a Slumbering Ground Hog Lodge has been organized to defend the woodchuck and to see that nothing ever frightens the little creature into prolonging cold weather. All in the spirit of good clean fun (and publicity) is the annual gathering of the Lodge on February 2. Here the bewildered groundhog is being blessed by the Exalted Inspirational Hibernating Patriarch, as kneeling Eye Rubbers wait upon the Prophets to rub their eyes with silken goods, to enable them better to peer into the future. Another Pennsylvania town closely associated with groundhog lore is Punxsutawney.

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Use Found for Uncle Sam's Surplus Prune Crop

SCIENCE has discovered an appetizer for livestock bored with the "same old hay and oats." According to reported experiments of the University of California, ground prunes, added to hay, may soon make an appealing as well as nourishing new form of stock feed.

Any increase in demand for Uncle Sam's prune crop would be welcome news to growers at this time, because considerable tonnage in 1938 was left unharvested because of low prices. Yet last year's crop in the United States was even lower than that of 1937.

Turning smooth-faced plums into wrinkled prunes is a beauty-process in reverse that has become, in recent years, big business in the United States. In 1938, the prune-growing States on the Pacific coast, where the industry centers, produced an estimated 237,000 tons of this dried fruit. The preceding year, when the rest of the world had disappointing prune crops, the United States again reported a slightly better than average yield.

Made from Special Types of Plums

Prunes are not made from just any species of plum selected to lose—through curing and drying—what beauty parlors call the "firm contour." Only special varieties, sweet and solid, will cure, instead of spoil, under the processes of dipping, rinsing, grading and sun-drying through which the fruit must pass from the time it is picked, thoroughly ripe, until it is packed for transport.

The word "prune" is generally understood in the United States to mean only the finished, dried product. To the trade, however, and in districts where drying operations are carried on, it may also include certain species of fresh plums to be made into the dried fruit. German and Italian "prunes," for example, are plum trees listed in fruit catalogues.

A native of the Caucasus and Asia Minor, the plum, according to the Roman writer Pliny, was first imported into Italy by way of Syria and Greece as far back as the second century before Christ.

A Globe-Trotting Fruit

The British Isles early learned to like certain species introduced from the continent, among which, tradition says, was the Orleans Plum, whose acquaintance the English made during the 15th-century siege of the French town of Orléans.

As a result of the plum's natural adaptability, the culture spread far and wide. Successfully grown in such varied map spots as South Africa and the Soviet Ukraine, Australia and South America (illustration, next page), it is now known in one form or another around the world.

Less than 50 years ago Uncle Sam was a big importer of prunes, buying them at the rate of some 60 million pounds a year. Today, because of West Coast plum orchards, the United States annually sells abroad nearly four times that amount. Although the first big plum orchard was not planted in the United States until 1870, California is now the world's leading prune center.

In Europe, southern France and Yugoslavia are important sources of the fruit.

Among the "Who's Who" of the prune world are some name oddities, ranging from the magnificent-sounding "President" and "Grand Duke" to the less impos-

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When the potato crop fails and the supply steamer is overdue, the islanders are menaced by starvation. Efforts have been made to induce them to move to South Africa, but most of them have refused to leave their homes.

Plans for the construction of a mole at Tristan da Cunha, thus making it possible to keep a schooner there, have been discussed. This would enable the islanders to trade with Capetown, 2,000 miles eastward.

Another scheme is the projected colonization of Nightingale Island. Should young islanders choose to pioneer there, it would remove the strain from the main island. Inaccessible Island (so-called) was successfully colonized by thirteen young pioneers in September, 1936. Wheat is thriving on Inaccessible and so are potatoes.

See also "Tristan da Cunha, Isles of Contentment," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1938.

Bulletin No. 4, January 30, 1939.

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LONG-HORNED OXEN SUPPLY SHORT-HAUL TRANSPORT ON A ROADLESS ISLAND

Tristan da Cunha's gully-gashed cart tracks are traveled by a few creaking vehicles with solid wooden wheels. Over ground too rough for the crude carts, mules carry burdens in panniers or baskets. The stone house with thatched roof (somewhat like those to be found on islands off Scotland) is built close against the mountain's barren, eroded sides for protection against the high winds.

ing "Sergeant," and from the slightly ominous "Tragedy" to the more prosaic "Yellow Egg."

Literature knows the prune, although not always as a fruit. "Papa, potatoes, poultry, prunes, and prism are all very good words for the lips; especially prunes and prism," wrote Dickens in *Little Dorrit.*

Said Don Marquis in *Tristan and Isolt:*

"She was a Saint!
He was a Hound! Alas,
That such a Peach should
Marry such a prune—"

Then there is the explanation of the little school boy who said: "The prune is the plum that grew up to be an old maid."

Bulletin No. 5, January 30, 1939.

BACK NUMBERS OF *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE*

Until further notice, selected sets of certain back numbers of the *National Geographic Magazine* may be obtained from the National Geographic Society, for educational use only, at the rate of ten for $1.00 (postpaid in the United States, its possessions, Canada, and Mexico). The School Service of The Society has prepared a list of available back numbers issued between 1928 and 1936 inclusive, which are offered at this greatly reduced rate. Teachers ordering from this list may select as many sets of ten as required. Many of these issues contain United States State and City stories, natural science articles, exploration reports, color illustrations, and maps. Address your request for a copy of the list of available issues to The National Geographic Society, School Service, 16th and M Streets, Washington, D. C.

Photograph by Jacob Gayer

SOUTH AMERICA IS MAKING A BID FOR THE PRUNE MARKET

Climate and soil have been found favorable for fruit growing in the vicinity of Molina, Chile, a short distance south of Santiago, Chile's capital. Trees, well spaced to obtain the maximum sunshine and moisture, have been set out in vast orchards which are especially beautiful in September and October, the Spring flowering months in the Southern Hemisphere.

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